

The News-Banner

www.News-Banner.com

FRIDAY, JUNE 2, 2023

BLUFFTON, INDIANA • Wells County's Hometown Connection

\$1.00

City park board gets update on summer programs

By SYDNEY KENT
Summer events are off to a fantastic start, Brandy Fiechter, the superintendent of the Bluffton Parks and Recreation Department told the department's board Thursday night.
Some of the programs that are available include swimming lessons, Theatre Thursday, a yoga Plants and Poses class, Rock Steady Boxing, and an event involving Nerf guns where 27 kids participated.
Fiechter reported an increase in park pavilion rentals this season and additional concession stands available.
Two new staff member propos-

(Continued on Page 2)

Parlor City Market begins Saturday

The 2023 edition of the Parlor City Market will kick off Saturday, June 3, on the plaza next to the Wells County Courthouse on Market Street.
Hours will be 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The market will be open each Saturday through Sept. 9.
Parking is available on Market Street on either side of Main Street and in the Washington Commons parking lot east of the Wells County Public Library.
Vendors on Saturday will include Beadedbykenna, County Homestead Baking, Craft Paper Commons, Fur Buddy Bandan-

(Continued on Page 2)



Loafin' about

Hot weather continued to push its way in Thursday afternoon at Ouabache State Park. The bison spent most of their evening lounging around the enclosure, occasionally taking breaks to lounge in the grass. (Photos by Carrie Penrod)



Senate gives final approval to debt ceiling deal

By LISA MASCARO, KEVIN FREKING, STEPHEN GROVES, FARNOUSH AMIRI and MARY CLARE JALONICK
Associated Press
WASHINGTON (AP) — Fending off a U.S. default, the Senate gave final approval late Thursday to a debt ceiling and budget cuts package, grinding into the night to wrap up work on the bipartisan deal and send it to President Joe Biden's desk to become law before the fast-approaching deadline.
The compromise package negotiated

between Biden and House Speaker Kevin McCarthy leaves neither Republicans nor Democrats fully pleased with the outcome. But the result, after weeks of hard-fought budget negotiations, shelves the volatile debt ceiling issue that risked upending the U.S. and global economy until 2025 after the next presidential election.
Approval in the Senate on a bipartisan vote, 63-36, reflected the overwhelming House tally the day before, relying on centrists in both parties to pull the Biden-McCarthy package to

passage.
Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer said the bill's passage means "America can breathe a sigh of relief."
He said, "We are avoiding default."
Fast action was vital if Washington hoped to meet next Monday's deadline, when Treasury has said the U.S. will start running short of cash to pay its bills, risking a devastating default. Raising the nation's debt limit, now \$31.4 trillion, would ensure Treasury could borrow to
(Continued on Page 2)



Summer reading sign-up

Thursday was the first day for signing up for the Wells County Public Library's summer reading program titled "All Together Now." Signing up at the Bluffton branch were new to Wells County residents Mary Blackman, center, and daughter Kathleen, at right. Doing the checking in was staff member Angela Pfister, at left. Readers may read to earn Chamber Bucks or to donate a book to Kate's Kart. More information at either Bluffton or Ossian library. (Photo by Barbara Barbieri)

APC members give their approval to two petitions

By DAVE SCHULTZ
The Wells County Area Plan Commission approved a request to seek a zoning change for property in Ossian and also approved a three-lot major subdivision for property at Ind. 1 and Wells County Road 850N near Ossian.
The rezoning request is for land at 1326 E. Lavever St. in Ossian and the request was made by Barkley Properties LLC. The property — a vacant lot — is currently zoned B-1 (business) and the request was to rezone it as R-3 (residential).
The petition stated that the rezoning would "allow the construction of new apartments similar to ones already built in town and currently being built in Wells County."
Mike Lautzenheiser, executive director of the APC, said the prop-

erty is in a residential area and that the county's new comprehensive plan, Vision 2035, indicated that the property should be zoned for housing.
The APC members — Harry Baumgartner Jr., Tyson Brooks, Chandler Gerber, Jarrod Hahn, Keira Lance, Jerome Markley, Tim Rohr, Becky Stone-Smith, Melissa Woodworth, and Issac Zent — all voted in favor of the rezoning request. Zent substituted for regular member John Schuhmacher.
The APC's vote, however, is only a recommendation to the Ossian Town Council. The council has the final say on whether the property is rezoned.
The major subdivision request is for 33.44 acres on 850N. The request was filed by OD Inc., owner of the property.
(Continued on Page 2)

Inside
Local/Area
Obituaries. 3
Police Notebook . . . 3

Opinion
Mark Thiessen. . . . 4

Also...
Sports. 6
Classifieds. 7
Diversions 5

Outside

Beautiful, but hot, weekend coming up

Today	Saturday	Sunday
High 91	High 90	High 84
Low 63	Low 61	Low 56

More Weather on Page 2

Online
Follow us on Facebook!
Go to www.facebook.com/newsbanner

Place Your Classified Ads 24/7

Vol. 94 No. 180

FRIDAY
June 2, 2023

Celebrate Father's Day
By Entering Our **Draw YOUR DAD Contest**

Win a Gift Certificate to in today's News-Banner!

How to contact us:
Call us: **824-0224**
or **1-800-579-7476**
email@news-banner.com
On the Web:
www.news-banner.com
Follow us at:
twitter.com/newsbanner

Park board

(Continued from Page 1)

als were approved in a unanimous vote Thursday evening. Teresa Moser will fill the role of Water Aerobics Instructor and Taylor Mayott will join Rock Steady Boxing as an instructor.

Other updates in the meeting on Thursday evening were:

- Yarn bombing was installed at the Wells Community Pool and included

work by 10 artists.

- Cracks on the Interurban Trail were resealed, and crossing areas were repaired by the Street Department.
- Full-time Bluffton parks staff have been recertified in CPR.
- A new chemical pump was installed at the pool and repairs were made to the pool heater.
- New toilets were installed at

Roush Park to alleviate ongoing issues with plumbing.

- The Indiana Department of Transportation has approved plans for the extension of the Interurban Trail, and the project will be going out for bids soon.

The next board meeting is at 6:30 p.m. July 6.

sydney@news-banner.com

Senate OKs bill

(Continued from Page 1)

pay already incurred U.S. debts.

In the end, the debt ceiling showdown was a familiar high-stakes battle in Congress, a fight taken on by McCarthy and powered by a hard-right House Republican majority confronting the Democratic president with a new era of divided government in Washington.

Refusing a once routine vote to allow a the nation’s debt limit to be lifted without concessions, McCarthy brought Biden’s White House to the negotiating table to strike an agreement that forces spending cut-backs aimed at curbing the nation’s deficits.

Overall, the 99-page bill restricts spending for the next two years, suspends the debt ceiling into January 2025 and changes some policies, including imposing new work requirements for older Americans receiving food aid and greenlighting an Appalachian natural gas line that many Democrats oppose.

It bolsters funds for defense and veterans, cuts back new money for Internal Revenue Service agents and rejects Biden’s call to roll back Trump-era tax breaks on corporations and the wealthy to help cover the nation’s deficits. It imposes automatic 1% cuts if Congress fails approve its annual spending bills.

After the House overwhelmingly approved the package late Wednesday,

Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell signaled he too wanted to waste no time ensuring it became law.

Touting its budget cuts, McConnell said Thursday, “The Senate has a chance to make that important progress a reality.”

Having remained largely on the sidelines during much of the Biden-McCarthy negotiations, several senators insisted on debate over their ideas to reshape the package. But making any changes at this stage would almost certainly derail the compromise and none were approved.

Instead, senators dragged through rounds of voting late into the night rejecting the various amendments, but making their preferences clear. Conservative Republican senators wanted to include further cut spending, while Democratic Sen. Tim Kaine of Virginia sought to remove the Mountain Valley Pipeline approval.

The energy pipeline is important to Sen. Joe Manchin, D-W.Va., and he defended the development running through his state, saying the country cannot run without the power of gas, coal, wind and all available energy sources.

But, offering an amendment to strip the pipeline from the package, Kaine argued it would not be fair for Congress to step into a controversial project that he said would also course through his state and scoop up lands in Appalachia that have been in families for

generations.

Defense hawks led by Sen. Lindsey Graham of South Carolina complained strongly that military spending, though boosted in the deal, was not enough to keep pace with inflation — particularly as they eye supplemental spending that will be needed this summer to support Ukraine against the war waged by Russian President Vladimir Putin.

“Putin’s invasion is a defining moment of the 21st century,” Graham argued from the Senate floor. “What the House did is wrong.”

They secured an agreement from Schumer, which he read on the floor, stating that the debt ceiling deal “does nothing” to limit the Senate’s ability to approve other emergency supplemental funds for national security, including for Ukraine, or for disaster relief and other issues of national importance.

For weeks negotiators labored late into the night to strike the deal with the White House, and for days McCarthy had worked to build support among skeptics.

Tensions had run high in the House the night before as hard-right Republicans refused the deal. Ominously, the conservatives warned of possibly trying to oust McCarthy over the issue.

But Biden and McCarthy assembled a bipartisan coalition, with Democrats ensuring passage on a robust 314-117 vote. All told, 71

Amazon to pay \$3M in privacy violation fines

WASHINGTON (AP) — Amazon agreed Wednesday to pay a \$25 million civil penalty to settle Federal Trade Commission allegations it violated a child privacy law and deceived parents by keeping for years kids’ voice and location data recorded by its popular Alexa voice assistant.

Separately, the company agreed to pay \$5.8 million in customer refunds for alleged privacy violations involving its doorbell camera Ring.

The Alexa-related action orders Amazon to overhaul its data deletion practices and impose stricter, more transparent privacy measures. It also obliges the tech giant to delete certain data collected by its internet-connected digital assistant, which people use for everything from checking the weather to playing games and queueing up music.

“Amazon’s history of misleading parents, keeping children’s recordings indefinitely, and flouting parents’ deletion requests violated COPPA (the Child Online Privacy Protection Act) and sacrificed privacy for profits,” Samuel Levine, the FCT consumer protection chief, said in a statement. The 1998 law is designed to shield children from online harms.

FTC Commissioner Alvaro Bedoya said in a statement that “when parents asked Amazon to delete their kids’ Alexa voice data, the company did not delete all of it.”

The agency ordered the company to delete inactive child accounts as well as certain voice and geolocation data.

Amazon kept the kids’ data to refine its voice recognition algorithm, the artificial intelligence behind Alexa, which powers Echo and other smart speakers, Bedoya said. The FTC complaint sends a message to all tech companies who are “sprinting to do the same” amid fierce competition in developing AI datasets, he added.

“Nothing is more visceral to a parent than the sound of their child’s voice,” tweeted Bedoya, the father of two small children.

Amazon said last month that it has sold more than a half-billion Alexa-enabled devices globally and that use of the service increased 35 percent last year.

In the Ring case, the FTC says Amazon’s home security camera subsidiary let employees and contractors access consumers’ private videos and providing lax security practices that

enabled hackers to take control of some accounts.

Amazon bought California-based Ring in 2018, and many of the violations alleged by the FTC predate the acquisition. Under the FTC’s order, Ring is required to pay \$5.8 million that would be used for consumer refunds.

Amazon said it disagreed with the FTC’s claims on both Alexa and Ring and denied violating the law. But it said the settlements “put these matters behind us.”

“Our devices and services are built to protect customers’ privacy, and to provide customers with control over their experience,” the Seattle-based company said.

In addition to the fine in the Alexa case, the proposed order prohibits Amazon from using deleted geolocation and voice information to create or improve any data product. The order also requires Amazon to create a privacy program for its use of geolocation information.

The proposed orders must be approved by federal judges.

FTC commissioners had unanimously voted to file the charges against Amazon in both cases.

Woman finds ancient mastodon tooth on beach

APTOS, Calif. (AP) — A woman taking a Memorial Day weekend stroll on a California beach found something unusual sticking out of the sand: a tooth from an ancient mastodon.

But then the fossil vanished, and it took a media blitz and a kind-hearted jogger to find it again.

Jennifer Schuh found the foot-long (.30-meter) tooth sticking out of the sand on Friday at the mouth of Aptos Creek on Rio Del Mar State Beach, located off Monterey Bay in Santa Cruz County on California’s central coast.

“I was on one side of the creek and this lady was talking to me on the other side and she said what’s that at your feet,” Schuh recounted. “It looked kind of weird, like burnt almost.”

Schuh wasn’t sure what she had found. So she snapped some photos and posted them on Facebook, asking for help.

The answer came from Wayne Thompson, paleontology collections advisor for the Santa Cruz Museum of Natural History.

Thompson determined that the

object was a worn molar from an adult Pacific mastodon, an extinct elephant-like species.

“This is an extremely important find,” Thompson wrote, and he urged Schuh to call him.

But when they went back to the beach, the tooth was gone.

A weekend search failed to find it. Thompson then sent out a social media request for help in finding the artifact. The plea made international headlines.

On Tuesday, Jim Smith of nearby Aptos called the museum.

“I was so excited to get that call,” said Liz Broughton, the museum’s visitor experience manager. “Jim told us that he had stumbled upon it during one of his regular jogs along the beach, but wasn’t sure of what he had found until he saw a picture of the tooth on the news.”

Smith donated the tooth to the museum, where it will be on display Friday through Sunday.

The age of the tooth isn’t clear. A museum blog says mastodons generally roamed California from about 5 million to 10,000 years ago.

Weather

Friday, June 2, 2023
(24-hour observations at 8:09 p.m. Thursday)
High: 89; **Low:** 63; **Precipitation:** None
Wabash River Level (at the Main Street bridge): 1.51 feet at 9:45 p.m. Thursday

Wells County forecast

Today: Sunny and hot, with a high near 91. Northeast wind 5 to 10 mph.

Tonight: Mostly clear, with a low around 63. Northeast wind 5 to 10 mph.

Saturday: Mostly sunny and hot, with a high near 90. Northeast wind around 10 mph.

Saturday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 61. Northeast wind 10 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

Sunday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 84.

Sunday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 56.

Monday: Isolated showers and thunderstorms after 2 p.m. Mostly sunny, with a high near 85. Chance of precipitation is 20 percent.

Monday Night: Isolated showers and thunderstorms before 8 p.m. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 59. Chance of precipitation is 10 percent.

Tuesday: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms after 2 p.m. Mostly sunny, with a high near 79.

Tuesday Night: A 10 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a low around 54.

Wednesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 78.

Wednesday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 53.

Thursday: A slight chance of showers. Mostly sunny, with a high near 79.

Petitions OK’d

(Continued from Page 1)

The petition notes that the subdivision of the property “will be (a) similar use as surrounding ground.”

In a related move, the

APC members approved allowing its plat committee to have secondary approval rights for the subdivision.

daves@news-banner.com

Parlor City

(Continued from Page 1)

as, Leah Crochets Studio, Ossian Cookie Farm, RL Woodworks, Shoup Pallet Design, Simply Clean Microgreens, Sunny Vibes

Soaps and Divine Shine.

At 11 a.m. competition dancers from the ABC Studio and Activity Center will be performing on the stage.

Shah wins National Spelling Bee, ending spelling career on top

By BEN NUCKOLS
Associated Press

OXON HILL, Md. (AP) — Soft-spoken but brimming with confidence, Dev Shah asked precise questions about obscure Greek roots, rushed through his second-to-last word and rolled to the Scripps National Spelling Bee title Thursday night.

Dev, a 14-year-old from Largo, Florida, had his spelling career interrupted by the pandemic, then didn’t make it out of his regional bee last year. He got through his highly competitive regional this year for a third and final try at the national title, and he ended up holding the trophy over his head as confetti fell.

His winning word was “psammophile,” a layup for a speller of his caliber.

“Psammo meaning sand, Greek?” he asked. “Phile, meaning love, Greek?”

Dev soaked up the moment by asking for the word to be used in a sentence, something he described a day earlier as a stalling tactic. Then he put his hands over his face as he was declared the winner.

Charlotte Walsh, a 14-year-old from Arlington, Virginia, was the runner-up, and she gave Dev a congratulatory hug. Dev, who previously appeared in the bee in 2019 and 2021, was close with many of his fellow finalists.

“They’ve all been in many online bees and many Scripps National Spelling Bees, and I felt like a spark and a camaraderie between all of us,” he said. “I’m very grateful and I’m privileged that I could be in a spelling bee with them one final time.”

Fifteen months ago, it was hardly a sure thing Dev would be back. He had a miserable experience at his regional bee last year, finishing fourth after spelling for five hours in damp, chilly weather at an outdoor soccer stadium in Orlando.

“It took me I would say at least four months to get back on track,” he said. “I just didn’t know if I wanted to keep continuing.”

When the field had been narrowed to just Dev and Charlotte, Scripps brought out the buzzer used for its “spell-off” tiebreaker, and Dev was momentarily confused when he stepped to the microphone.

“This is not the spell-off, right?” Dev asked. Told it was not, he spelled “bathypitotmeter” so quickly that it might as well have been, the latest example of his unassuming onstage swagger.

“I practiced for the spell-off every day, I guess. I knew it might happen and I prepared for everything, so I kind of went into spell-off mode,” Dev said. “But I also was scared for the spell-off.”

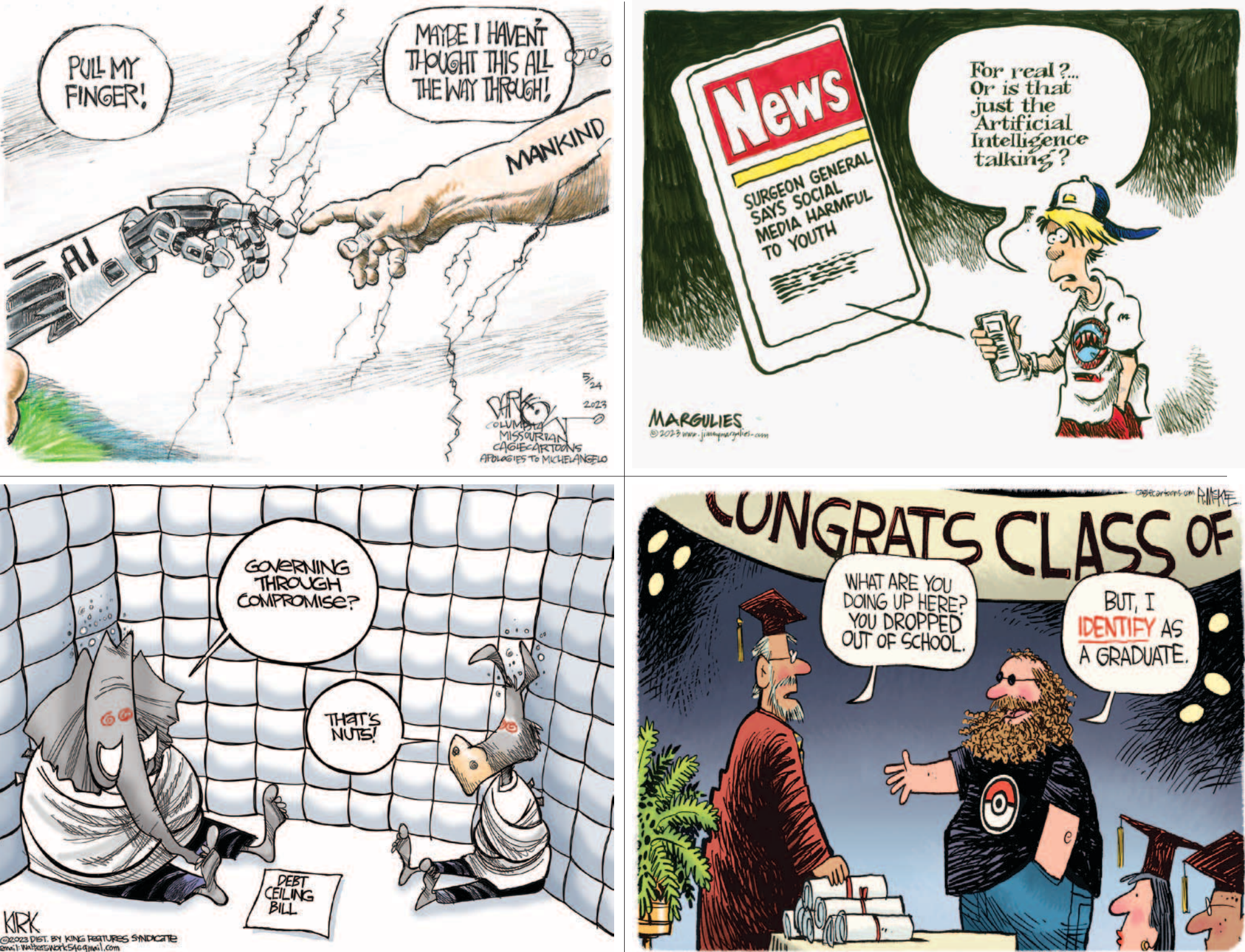
Dev wins more than \$50,000 in cash and prizes and is the 22nd champion in the past 24 years with South Asian heritage. His father, Deval, a software engineer, immigrated to the United States from India 29 years ago to get his master’s degree in electrical engineering. He has since added an MBA from the University of Florida. Dev’s older brother, Neil, is a rising junior at Yale.

Deval said his son showed an incredible recall with words starting at age 3, and Dev spent many years in participating in academic competitions staged by the North South Foundation, a nonprofit that provides scholarships to children in India.

The bee began in 1925 and is open to students through the eighth grade. Spellers qualify by winning regional competitions around the country. There were 229 kids onstage at the beginning of this year’s national bee — and each was a champion many times over, considering that 11 million participated at the school level.

While the bee is smaller and the field not as deep as in pre-pandemic years, this year’s finalists demonstrated an impressive depth of knowledge as they worked their way through a sometimes diabolical word list.

The Week That Was - a look back through cartoonists' eyes...



This is the ‘America First’ case for supporting Ukraine

As Ukraine begins its spring counteroffensive, a 60 percent majority of Republicans say we should stand with Ukraine until Russia is defeated, according to a Harvard CAPS-Harris Poll conducted in March. But GOP support is softening. The share of Republicans who say the United States is providing too much aid to Ukraine has steadily increased from 9 percent right after the Russian invasion to 40 percent today, according to a Pew Research Center poll in January.

Many wavering Republicans are frustrated by the lack of a clear strategy for victory from the Biden administration. They hear Ukraine skeptics on the right arguing that the war is costing too much, depleting our military readiness, increasing the risk of nuclear confrontation with Russia and distracting us from the larger threat posed by Communist China. Some are beginning to ask whether U.S. support for Ukraine is really in the nation’s interest.

It’s a fair question. Most conservatives are not isolationists; they are reluctant internationalists, willing to support U.S. leadership on the world stage — as long as they are convinced our national interest is involved. Altruistic arguments of solidarity with the Ukrainian people are not enough; they demand an “America First” case for supporting Ukraine.

Here it is, in 10 clear points.

1. A Russian victory would reinforce a narrative of American weakness and embolden our enemies.

Ask yourself: Did President Biden’s humiliating withdrawal from Afghanistan embolden Russian President Vladimir Putin to invade Ukraine? Of course it did. And Putin watched Biden’s subsequent capitulation on the Nord Stream 2 natural gas pipeline, and his reluctance to send Ukraine lethal military aid as Russia massed troops on Ukraine’s border. The Russian leader concluded that Biden was weak.

Now, imagine if Biden had followed the advice of those on the right who oppose aid and had refused to arm Ukraine. Putin would have taken Kyiv. And many of the same conservatives who are now criticizing the president for doing too much would have said: *Biden is catastrophically weak. First, he let the Taliban march into Kabul, and now he has let the Russians to march into Kyiv.* And they would have been right.

2. A Ukrainian victory will help deter China.

If the Afghanistan debacle emboldened Putin, how much more would U.S. weakness in Ukraine embolden Chinese dictator Xi Jinping? The risk of war over Taiwan would skyrocket. And, unlike the war in Ukraine, it could very well involve U.S. troops.

Think of Xi’s calculation: If the United



Marc Thiessen

States won’t stand fast for Ukraine, an internationally recognized sovereign state, how likely is a stalwart defense of Taiwan, which is not? And if the United States is not willing to spend money to defend Ukraine, is it really going to risk American lives to defend Taiwan?

3. Defeating Putin would weaken the Sino-Russian partnership.

Xi seeks a Chinese-led global order that favors the world’s autocracies. In pursuit of that goal, he made a bet on Putin, and has met with him some 40 times since assuming power in 2012. China’s “no-limits” partnership with Russia “is a signature personal policy of Xi Jinping,” former Trump deputy national security adviser Matthew Pottinger tells me. “Putin’s defeat would do a lot of damage to Xi’s credibility” by making it clear the Chinese leader backed a loser.

4. Support for Ukraine will restore the Reagan Doctrine.

For most of the past two decades, U.S. foreign policy has followed the Bush Doctrine. After the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, we would not wait to be struck again. We would fight terrorists abroad so we did not have to face them here at home. The doctrine helped prevent catastrophic attacks in the United States but, eventually, the constant combat footing exhausted America’s will to sacrifice the lives of U.S. troops. Sensing the exhaustion, Presidents Barack Obama and Donald Trump — both skeptics of the Bush Doctrine — reduced the United States’ military footprint abroad.

In Ukraine, the Reagan Doctrine is making a comeback, reminding us that we can push back totalitarian aggression without getting directly involved in fighting wars abroad.

5. Victory in Ukraine will save the United States billions of dollars.

Russian adventurism is a drain on U.S. resources. By decimating the Russian military threat, Ukraine is reducing the amount of money the United States will have to spend defending Europe — without risking American lives to do it.

Russia might never regain the strength it has spent against Ukraine. Its military has suffered more combat deaths in Ukraine

than in all of its wars since World War II — combined. Russia has lost about 2,000 tanks — more than half its operational fleet — plus thousands of other pieces of military equipment, including combat aircraft, combat vehicles, unmanned aerial vehicles, radar and anti-aircraft systems, and at least 18 Navy ships. The British defense ministry estimates that 97 percent of the Russian army is now committed to Ukraine. For every Russian tank, plane and infantry division the Ukrainians eliminate, the United States will have to spend that much less to deter Russian aggression in the decades to come.

The impact will go beyond Europe. During the Obama administration, Russia intervened militarily in Syria on behalf of Iran and the regime of Bashar al-Assad. Today, the war in Ukraine has flipped the script: Russia has been forced to reduce its presence in Syria and redeploy critical military hardware to Ukraine. And instead of Russia helping Iran, Iran is now shoring up Russia with weapons, including military drones.

6. Support for Ukraine allows us to test new weapons and defense concepts that will increase U.S. military preparedness.

The New York Times reports: “Ukraine has become a testing ground for state-of-the-art weapons and information systems, and new ways to use them, that Western political officials and military commanders predict could shape warfare for generations to come.”

Additionally, after years of fighting non-state actors, the war in Ukraine is reorienting the U.S. military to prepare for great-power conflict. The axiom goes that militaries always prepare to fight the last war — which for Americans is an anti-terrorism war focused on counterinsurgency.

7. Arming Ukraine is revitalizing our defense industrial base.

Money that Congress has allocated to arm Ukraine is not being spent in Ukraine. It’s going primarily to Americans — either to replace weapons sent to Ukraine from U.S. stockpiles, or to build the weapons we send to Kyiv. “When we’re talking about giving assistance to Ukraine . . . these [weapons systems] are produced by American or Allied and partner countries,” explains Seth Jones, the director of the international security program at the Center for Strategic and International Studies. “They are produced by General Dynamics, by Raytheon, Lockheed Martin, by Boeing in some cases. . . . And they’re being built in most cases in the United States.”

8. The Russian invasion has strengthened U.S. alliances.

Putin intended his invasion to weaken NATO and to break U.S.-led alliances, so that his country could restore its imperial borders, and so China could have free rein in the Pacific. Instead, it has done the opposite.

Sixteen NATO allies (more than half the alliance’s members) increased defense spending in 2022, while an additional seven countries have pledged to raise defense spending as a percentage of gross domestic

product in the near term. Indeed, as a percentage of GDP, the United States is tied for ninth in spending on Ukraine, behind Latvia, Estonia, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, the Netherlands, Czech Republic and Britain. Bulgaria and Finland each contribute nearly the same percentage of GDP as the United States.

9. A Russian victory could spark new wars of aggression and a global nuclear arms race.

This war is happening because Ukraine surrendered its post-Soviet nuclear arsenal at our insistence. After the Soviet Union collapsed, Ukraine inherited nearly 2,000 strategic nuclear weapons, along with the missiles and strategic bombers to deliver them. If Ukraine still had those weapons, Russia would never have invaded.

But in December 1994, the Clinton administration brokered an agreement called the Budapest Memorandum on Security Assurances, in which Ukraine agreed to give up those weapons. In exchange, the United States and Britain promised “to provide assistance to Ukraine . . . if Ukraine should become a victim of an act of aggression,” while Russia pledged to “refrain from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of Ukraine.”

Russia’s failure to live up to its pledge makes it essential that we live up to ours.

10. Victory in Ukraine is achievable.

Current and former U.S. military leaders believe Ukraine can win — if given the necessary weapons to prevail. Retired Gen. Jack Keane, a former vice chief of staff of the Army, tells me that Ukraine needs tanks and armored vehicles to carry infantry; long-range precision artillery; air-defense systems; and advanced fighter jets. “Those are the ingredients to be successful,” Keane says. “And if you don’t have those ingredients, you cannot take the territory that you want to take in the time that you want to take it.”

Of course, the most powerful argument is the one I have not made yet: Helping Ukraine is the right thing to do. It is the American thing to do. As Reagan explained 40 years ago during his “Evil Empire” speech, the United States cannot remove itself “from the struggle between right and wrong and good and evil” because “America has kept alight the torch of freedom, not just for ourselves, but for millions of others around the world.” Those words ring as true today as they did in Reagan’s time. The war in Ukraine is a struggle between right and wrong and good and evil, and in that struggle, America must not remain neutral.

The lesson of the 20th century is that putting “America First” requires us to project strength and deter our enemies from launching wars of aggression — so that U.S. troops to don’t have to fight and die in another global conflagration. The invasion in Ukraine was a failure of deterrence. Only by helping Ukraine win can we prevent further deterrence failures.

The “America First” conclusion: Helping Ukraine is a supreme national interest.

Marc A. Thiessen is on Twitter, @marcthiessen.

Submit your Letters to the Editor via: • Our website link (Submit your Letter) • E-Mail: email@news-banner.com • Fax: (260) 824-0700 • Mail: PO Box 436, Bluffton IN 46714 • Drop-off: 125 N. Johnson St., Bluffton. All letters must be signed and must include a phone number or address in case verification is desired. Letters are edited for brevity and clarity. **Letters must be no more than 500 words.**

The News-Banner
(USPS 059-200)
Periodicals Postage Paid at Bluffton, IN 46714.
Published every day except Sundays and principal holidays at 125 N. Johnson St., Bluffton IN 46714, Post Office Box 436

News-Banner Publications, Inc.
Evening News est. 1892 • Evening Banner est. 1899 • Consolidated 1929
George B. Witwer, Chairman of the Board; Doug Brown, President, Publisher; Dianne Witwer, Secretary/Treasurer. David Schultz, Editor. Mark Miller, Opinion Page Editor.
Opinions expressed on this page do not necessarily represent the views of this newspaper.

Need help muting my mouthy mother-in-law

Dear Annie: I have teenagers who are in multiple sports. My mother-in-law is a huge fan of sports and attends most events. She gets extremely excited about the game going on and is incredibly loud — shouting during a majority of the game.

For the most part, her comments are positive, but I can tell the constant shouting of how the players should play the game is very bothersome to those around us, including my husband and me. My husband has asked her to tone it down, and her response was to later go ask the referee if it was OK for her to cheer on the team.

We only have a few years left to attend these events, and honestly, her being there makes me sometimes dread going to these events. Do you have any suggestions on how to proceed with my mother-in-law? — Frustrated

Dear Frustrated: The fact that your MIL's comments are mostly positive is a good thing, but the truth is that even one insulting remark has no place at a high school sporting event. The next time she says something obnoxious, I would politely remind her that this event is for teenagers and its primary purpose is to have fun.

How do your kids feel about her noisy cheering? If they are embarrassed by it, then that is another compelling reason to ask her to quiet down; explain to her that her shouting is distracting to the athletes and unfairly takes the attention away from them.

Dear Annie: My daughter is 31 and suffers from multiple sclerosis. She was diagnosed when she was 23. She uses a walker and wheelchair. I have been her caregiver. I'm 63 and fear who will look after her when I'm gone.

She has a good job and can afford to live on her own. I can also contribute some money to make it easier. Should I encourage her to be independent? She does not do any housework or help with cooking. However, when

she is on her own, sometimes she becomes responsible.

Do you suggest that she should live alone and not with parents? I do want her to be independent but fear her living alone. She does not have many friends.

— Mom Wanting Best for Daughter

Dear Mom: The most important thing here is your daughter's health and well-being. In general, encouraging her to be more independent — making friends, picking up hobbies, keeping mentally and physically active — is objectively a good thing, but it will take time and require baby steps.

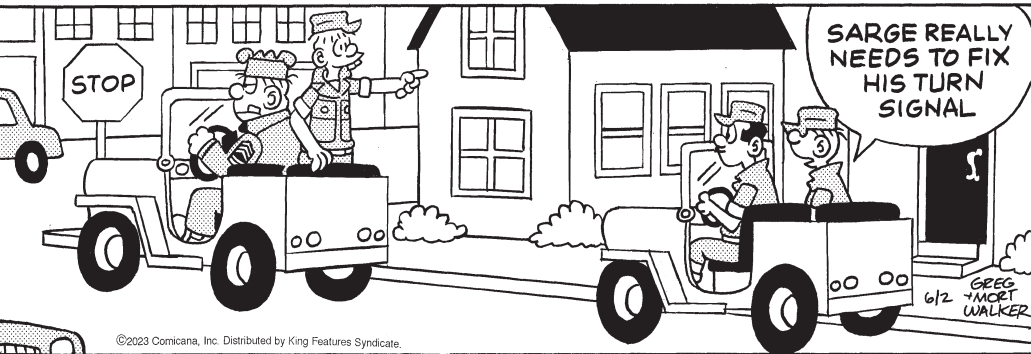
Start with some of the day-to-day things, if she is able, like having her help prepare meals or throw in a few loads of the weekly laundry. On a grander scale, sit down together and have an honest discussion. What does she envision for herself one, three, five years down the road? As you think about retirement and eventually entering that chapter of your life, how do your ideas for the future align? How do they differ? Do her finances make it possible for her to hire help if she lives alone? What local resources could she take advantage of to make living alone easier and safer? I also imagine her doctors would be incredibly helpful in determining the best, most seamless way to go about this transition.

“How Can I Forgive My Cheating Partner?” is out now! Annie Lane’s second anthology — featuring favorite columns on marriage, infidelity, communication and reconciliation — is available as a paperback and e-book. Visit <http://www.creatorspublishing.com> for more information. Send your questions for Annie Lane to dearannie@creators.com.

© 2023 CREATORS.COM



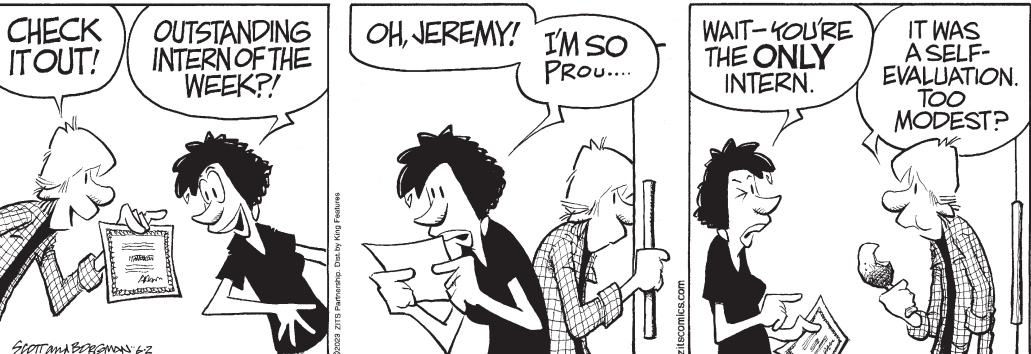
BEETLE BAILEY



BLONDIE



ZITS



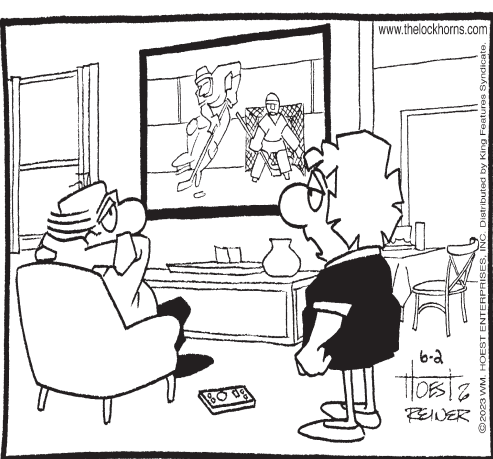
CRANKSHAFT



THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane

The LOCKHORNS



"WE NOW JOIN DINNER, ALREADY IN PROGRESS."

My Answer

By Dr. Billy
Graham



God puts no price tag on the Gift of gifts

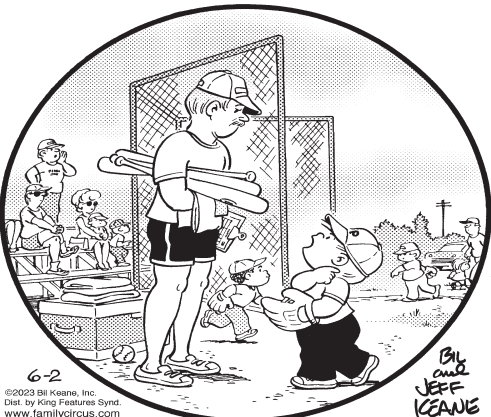
question: The best things in life are free, are they not? The air we breathe is not sold for the cubic foot. The water that flows crystal clear from the mountain stream is free for the taking. Love is free; faith is free; hope is free. We can't reject God's grace on grounds that it is too cheap, for the most precious things in life come to us without money and without price. Only the cheap, tawdry things have a price tag upon them. Salvation is free — but it is not cheap!

God puts no price
on the Gift of gifts.
Teachers are not sales-
men, for they have nothing
to sell. They are the
bearers of Good News

— the good tidings that “Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures” (1 Corinthians 15:3), and that the “grace of God... has appeared to all men” (Titus 2:11). Money can’t buy it. Man’s righteousness can’t earn it. Social prestige can’t help us acquire it. Morality can’t purchase it. It is as the Prophet Isaiah writes, “Without money and without price” (Isaiah 55:1).

(This column is based on the words and writings of the late Rev. Billy Graham.)

©2023 Billy Graham
Literary Trust. Distributed
by Tribune Content Agen-
cy, LLC.



“Can we delay the start of the game, Coach? My dad’s recharging his phone.”

**BUY IT
SELL IT
RENT IT
FIND IT
FILL IT
GET IT
DO IT**

IN THE CLASSIFIEDS!

**Place Your Ad 24/7/365!
www.news-banner.com**

#0602	M	A	D1	D2	5 PM	5:30	6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30	12 AM	12:30
WINM (12)	11	26	63		3D Woman	Juice & Friends	*** The Ride (1997, Drama) Brock Pierce, Jennifer Blanc, Michael Biehn.	*** CBS News	Wheel of Fortune (N)	Jeopardy!	TCT Today	News+at-10	Jewish Jesus James Robison	Dr. Robert Jeffress Our Jewish Roots	Andrew Wommack	Ask the Pastor	News+at-10			
CBS WANE (15)	2	2	15	15	News (N)	News at 6 (N)	CBS News	Wheel of Fortune (N)	Jeopardy!	The Greatest #Athome Videos (N)	Fire Country "You Know Your Dragon Best"	Blue Bloods "Life During Wartime"	Nightcast (N)	(35) The Late Show With Stephen Colbert	(35) James Corden					
Antenna WANE-2 (152)	106	20			Hawaii Five-0 "Waikama 'Ele' Ele"	Hawaii Five-0 "Wehe ana"	Hawaii Five-0 "He Ke'u O Ka A'ale'a Hina"	Hawaii Five-0 "He Ke'u O Ka A'ale'a Hina"	Hawaii "Ua Mau Ke Ea O Ka Aina I Ka Pono"	Shark Tank	20/20 Unforgettable true crime mysteries, exclusive newsmaker interviews and investigative reports.	Dateline NBC Compelling mysteries, powerful documentaries, in-depth investigations. (N)	ABC21 (N)	Jimmy Kimmel Live!	Nightline					
ABC WPTA (21)	4	3	21	21	ABC21 News at 5 (N)	ABC21 (N)	ABC World News (N)	ABC21 News (N)	Ent Tonight (N)	Hot Wheels: Ultimate Challenge	Chicago P.D.	Chicago P.D.	Seinfeld	Mom	Mom	Goldberg's "The Ring"	The Goldberg			
WMTA-WT2 (212)	7	8	14		Pictionary or Less	25 Words or Fewer	Modern Family	21Alive News at 6	Last Man Standing	Penn & Teller: Fool Us "Full Frontal Magic"	Whose Line (N)	Joke Off	Chicago P.D. "A Little Devil Complex"	Family Guy	Family Guy	The Goldbergs				
NNI-MPTA-3 (213)	10	9	56	34	King "Time Share"	King "Oxy Moron"	Modern Family	21Alive News at 6	Last Man Standing	Washington Firing- Hoover (N)	Washington Firing- Hoover (N)	Washington Firing- Hoover (N)	Washington Firing- Hoover (N)	Washington Firing- Hoover (N)	Washington Firing- Hoover (N)	Washington Firing- Hoover (N)	Washington Firing- Hoover (N)			
CW WISE (33)	8	4	33	33	S.W.I.S.K.'s Did You Steal the Money That Got Me... To Be Announced	PBS Newshour (N)	BBC News America	PBS Newshour (N)	Primeetime 39	Washington Firing- Hoover (N)	Washington Firing- Hoover (N)	Washington Firing- Hoover (N)	Washington Firing- Hoover (N)	Washington Firing- Hoover (N)	Washington Firing- Hoover (N)	Washington Firing- Hoover (N)	Washington Firing- Hoover (N)			
PBS WFVA (39)	13	5	39	39	Tales from the Royal Bedchamber	Context	BBC News America	PBS Newshour (N)	Primeetime 39	Washington Firing- Hoover (N)	Washington Firing- Hoover (N)	Washington Firing- Hoover (N)	Washington Firing- Hoover (N)	Washington Firing- Hoover (N)	Washington Firing- Hoover (N)	Washington Firing- Hoover (N)	Washington Firing- Hoover (N)			
PBS WPB (49)	3				WFFT Fox News at 5 (N)	WFFT Fox News at 5 (N)	Big Bang	Big Bang	SmackDown	The Superstars of World Wrestling Entertainment do battle in elaborate, long-running rivalr...	News at 10 (N)	Locker Room (N)	Young Sheldon	Young Sheldon	Neighbor					
WFFT (55)	6	6	55	55																
CHABLE CHANNELS																				
LIFE	23	113	108	252	252	Castle "The Human Factor"	Castle "Watershed"		Castle "Valkyrie"		Salt-N-Pepa (2021, Docu-Drama) Laila Odum, Cleveland Berto, G.G. Tawson.									
FX	24	132	136	148	148	(400) *** Spider-Man 3 (07) Tobey Maguire.			*** Venom (18) Michelle Williams, Tom Hardy.		*** Venom (18) Michelle Williams, Tom Hardy.									
TVLAND	25		106	304	304	Griffith	Griffith	Griffith	Griffith	Griffith	Everybody Raymond	Everybody Raymond	Everybody Raymond	Everybody Raymond	Everybody Raymond	Everybody Raymond	Everybody Raymond	Everybody Raymond		
E!	26	142	114	236	236	Modern Family	Modern Family	Mod Fam "Whanex?"	Modern Family	Mod Fam "Red Alert"	*** Jurassic Park (1993, Adventure) Laura Dern, Jeff Goldblum, Sam Neill.									
PARMT	30		241	241	241	Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men	Movie Movie to be disclosed.									
ESPN	31	50	140	206	206	Around N	Pardon (L) (N)	SportsCenter (L) (N)	2023 WCWS Game 5: Teams TBA From USA Softball Hall of Fame Complex in Oklahoma City.	Softball (L) (N)	2023 WCWS Game 6: Teams TBA From USA Softball Hall of Fame Complex in Oklahoma City.									
ESPN2	32	54	143	209	209	Max (N)	UFC Live	Daily Wager (L) (N)	College Baseball NCAA Tournament, Regional: Teams TBA (L) (N)		College Baseball NCAA Tournament, Regional: Teams TBA (L) (N)									
FSMW	33		418	671	671	(430) Live on the Line	The Rally (N)	Cardinals! Pre (L) (N)	MLB Baseball St. Louis Cardinals at Pittsburgh Pirates From PNC Park in Pittsburgh. (L) (N)		Cardinals! The Card Post (L) Life	Destination: Polaris	Sports Stars	Poker WPT Cash Game No Limit Holdem - Part 6						
USA	34	133	105	242	242	9-1-1 "Careful What You Wish For"	Paul Walker, Michelle Rodriguez, Vin Diesel.	*** The Fast and the Furious (2001, Action)	Furious (2001, Action)	Yves Gibson, Eva Mendes, Paul Walker.	*** 2 Fast 2 Furious (2003, Action) Tyrese Gibson, Eva Mendes, Paul Walker.									
DISC	35	72	182	278	278	Gold Rush: White Water "Risky Business"	Gold Rush WW "Mouth of the Dragon"	Gold Rush WW "In Death's Shadow"	Gold Rush "There's Gold Everywhere" (N)	Parker's Trail "Inca Gold Uncut" (N)	Gold Rush: White Water "Risky Business"	Gold Rush: White Water "Risky Business"	Gold Rush: White Water "Risky Business"	Gold Rush: White Water "Risky Business"	Gold Rush: White Water "Risky Business"	Gold Rush: White Water "Risky Business"	Gold Rush: White Water "Risky Business"			
TLC	36	73	183	280	280	90 Day: Other	90 Day: Other	90 Day: Other	90 Day: Other	90 Day: Other	90 Day: Other	90 Day: Other	90 Day: Other	90 Day: Other	90 Day: Other	90 Day: Other	90 Day: Other	90 Day: Other		
AIST	38		173	269	269	The Unexplained "Bizarre Vanishings"	The Unexplained "Mysteries of the Moon"	The Unexplained "Mysteries of the Moon"	The Unexplained "Mysteries of the Moon"	The Unexplained "UFO Hotspots" (N)	The Unexplained "UFO Hotspots" (N)	The Unexplained "UFO Hotspots" (N)	The Unexplained "UFO Hotspots" (N)	The Unexplained "UFO Hotspots" (N)	The Unexplained "UFO Hotspots" (N)	The Unexplained "UFO Hotspots" (N)	The Unexplained "UFO Hotspots" (N)			
HALL	40	117	185	312	312	The First 48	The First 48	The First 48	The First 48	The First 48	The First 48	The First 48	The First 48	The First 48	The First 48	The First 48	The First 48	The First 48		
SYFY	41	135	122	244	244	(430) *** Dating the Delaneys Rachel Boston.	*** A Valentine's Match (2020) Luke Macfarlane, Mary-Margaret Humes, Bethany Joy Lenz.	*** A Valentine's Match (2020) Luke Macfarlane, Mary-Margaret Humes, Bethany Joy Lenz.	*** A Valentine's Match (2020) Luke Macfarlane, Mary-Margaret Humes, Bethany Joy Lenz.	*** A Valentine's Match (2020) Luke Macfarlane, Mary-Margaret Humes, Bethany Joy Lenz.	*** A Valentine's Match (2020) Luke Macfarlane, Mary-Margaret Humes, Bethany Joy Lenz.	*** A Valentine's Match (2020) Luke Macfarlane, Mary-Margaret Humes, Bethany Joy Lenz.	*** A Valentine's Match (2020) Luke Macfarlane, Mary-Margaret Humes, Bethany Joy Lenz.	*** A Valentine's Match (2020) Luke Macfarlane, Mary-Margaret Humes, Bethany Joy Lenz.	*** A Valentine's Match (2020) Luke Macfarlane, Mary-Margaret Humes, Bethany Joy Lenz.	*** A Valentine's Match (2020) Luke Macfarlane, Mary-Margaret Humes, Bethany Joy Lenz.	*** A Valentine's Match (2020) Luke Macfarlane, Mary-Margaret Humes, Bethany Joy Lenz.			
TBS	43	130	139	247	247	Friends	Friends	Sheldon	Sheldon	Sheldon	Sheldon	Sheldon	Sheldon	Sheldon	Sheldon	Sheldon	Sheldon	Sheldon		
TNT	44	131	138	245	245	(445) *** Ocean's Twelve (2004) Brad Pitt, Matt Damon, George Clooney.	*** Ocean's Twelve (2004) Brad Pitt, Matt Damon, George Clooney.	*** Ocean's Twelve (2004) Brad Pitt, Matt Damon, George Clooney.	*** Ocean's Twelve (2004) Brad Pitt, Matt Damon, George Clooney.	*** Ocean's Twelve (2004) Brad Pitt, Matt Damon, George Clooney.	*** Ocean's Twelve (2004) Brad Pitt, Matt Damon, George Clooney.	*** Ocean's Twelve (2004) Brad Pitt, Matt Damon, George Clooney.	*** Ocean's Twelve (2004) Brad Pitt, Matt Damon, George Clooney.	*** Ocean's Twelve (2004) Brad Pitt, Matt Damon, George Clooney.	*** Ocean's Twelve (2004) Brad Pitt, Matt Damon, George Clooney.	*** Ocean's Twelve (2004) Brad Pitt, Matt Damon, George Clooney.	*** Ocean's Twelve (2004) Brad Pitt, Matt Damon, George Clooney.	*** Ocean's Twelve (2004) Brad Pitt, Matt Damon, George Clooney.		
AMC	45	131	154	254	254	(300) *** The Matrix Revolutions	*** The Matrix Revolutions (1999, Sci-Fi) Laurence Fishburne, Carrie-Anne Moss, Keanu Reeves.	*** The Matrix Revolutions (1999, Sci-Fi) Laurence Fishburne, Carrie-Anne Moss, Keanu Reeves.	*** The Matrix Revolutions (1999, Sci-Fi) Laurence Fishburne, Carrie-Anne Moss, Keanu Reeves.	*** The Matrix Revolutions (1999, Sci-Fi) Laurence Fishburne, Carrie-Anne Moss, Keanu Reeves.	*** The Matrix Revolutions (1999, Sci-Fi) Laurence Fishburne, Carrie-Anne Moss, Keanu Reeves.	*** The Matrix Revolutions (1999, Sci-Fi) Laurence Fishburne, Carrie-Anne Moss, Keanu Reeves.	*** The Matrix Revolutions (1999, Sci-Fi) Laurence Fishburne, Carrie-Anne Moss, Keanu Reeves.	*** The Matrix Revolutions (1999, Sci-Fi) Laurence Fishburne, Carrie-Anne Moss, Keanu Reeves.	*** The Matrix Revolutions (1999, Sci-Fi) Laurence Fishburne, Carrie-Anne Moss, Keanu Reeves.	*** The Matrix Revolutions (1999, Sci-Fi) Laurence Fishburne, Carrie-Anne Moss, Keanu Reeves.	*** The Matrix Revolutions (1999, Sci-Fi) Laurence Fishburne, Carrie-Anne Moss, Keanu Reeves.	*** The Matrix Revolutions (1999, Sci-Fi) Laurence Fishburne, Carrie-Anne Moss, Keanu Reeves.		
COM	47	107	249			Seinfeld	Seinfeld	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office		
FS1	48	64	150	219	219	(430) Speak (L) (N)	NASCAR Craftsman Truck Series Toyota 200, Qualifying (L) (N)	NASCAR Craftsman Truck Series Toyota 200, Qualifying (L) (N)	NASCAR Craftsman Truck Series Toyota 200, Qualifying (L) (N)	NASCAR Craftsman Truck Series Toyota 200, Qualifying (L) (N)	NASCAR Craftsman Truck Series Toyota 200, Qualifying (L) (N)	NASCAR Craftsman Truck Series Toyota 200, Qualifying (L) (N)	NASCAR Craftsman Truck Series Toyota 200, Qualifying (L) (N)	NASCAR Craftsman Truck Series Toyota 200, Qualifying (L) (N)	NASCAR Craftsman Truck Series Toyota 200, Qualifying (L) (N)	NASCAR Craftsman Truck Series Toyota 200, Qualifying (L) (N)	NASCAR Craftsman Truck Series Toyota 200, Qualifying (L) (N)			
WGN	53		307			The Hill (L) (N)	Vargas Report (N)	On Balance (N)	Cuomo (N)	Dama June	Dama June	Dama June	Dama June	Dama June	Dama June	Dama June	Dama June	Dama June		
WE	57	128	260			Law CI "Great Barrier"	Law CI "Eosphoros"	Law CI "Eosphoros"	Law CI "Eosphoros"	Law CI "Eosphoros"	Mama June	Mama June	Mama June	Mama June	Mama June	Mama June	Mama June	Mama June		
FOOD	59	153	110	231	231	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners		
BRAVO	60	140	129	237	237	(430) *** Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire (05) Daniel Radcliffe.	*** Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire (05) Daniel Radcliffe.	*** Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire (05) Daniel Radcliffe.	*** Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire (05) Daniel Radcliffe.	*** Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire (05) Daniel Radcliffe.	*** Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire (05) Daniel Radcliffe.	*** Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire (05) Daniel Radcliffe.	*** Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire (05) Daniel Radcliffe.	*** Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire (05) Daniel Radcliffe.	*** Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire (05) Daniel Radcliffe.	*** Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire (05) Daniel Radcliffe.	*** Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire (05) Daniel Radcliffe.	*** Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire (05) Daniel Radcliffe.		
NICK	68	170	299			SpongeBob	SpongeBob	SpongeBob	SpongeBob	SpongeBob	SpongeBob	SpongeBob	SpongeBob	SpongeBob	SpongeBob	SpongeBob	SpongeBob	SpongeBob		
DISN	69	172	292			(430) *** Zombies (18) Milo Manheim.	*** Zombies (18) Milo Manheim.	*** Zombies (18) Milo Manheim.	*** Zombies (18) Milo Manheim.	*** Zombies (18) Milo Manheim.	*** Zombies (18) Milo Manheim.	*** Zombies (18) Milo Manheim.	*** Zombies (18) Milo Manheim.	*** Zombies (18) Milo Manheim.	*** Zombies (18) Milo Manheim.	*** Zombies (18) Milo Manheim.	*** Zombies (18) Milo Manheim.	*** Zombies (18) Milo Manheim.		
FREEFORM	70	32	180	311	311	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy		
HBO	301	300	501			(430) White	*** The Batman (2022, Action) Zoë Kravitz, Jeffrey Wright, Robert Pattinson.	*** The Batman (2022, Action) Zoë Kravitz, Jeffrey Wright, Robert Pattinson.	*** The Batman (2022, Action) Zoë Kravitz, Jeffrey Wright, Robert Pattinson.	*** The Batman (2022, Action) Zoë Kravitz, Jeffrey Wright, Robert Pattinson.	*** The Batman (2022, Action) Zoë Kravitz, Jeffrey Wright, Robert Pattinson.	*** The Batman (2022, Action) Zoë Kravitz, Jeffrey Wright, Robert Pattinson.	*** The Batman (2022, Action) Zoë Kravitz, Jeffrey Wright, Robert Pattinson.	*** The Batman (2022, Action) Zoë Kravitz, Jeffrey Wright, Robert Pattinson.	*** The Batman (2022, Action) Zoë Kravitz, Jeffrey Wright, Robert Pattinson.	*** The Batman (2022, Action) Zoë Kravitz, Jeffrey Wright, Robert Pattinson.	*** The Batman (2022, Action) Zoë Kravitz, Jeffrey Wright, Robert Pattinson.	*** The Batman (2022, Action) Zoë Kravitz, Jeffrey Wright, Robert Pattinson.		
MAX	325	310	515			(445) *** Harold & Kumar Escape From Guantanamo Bay Kai Penn.	*** Gravity (2013, Drama) George Clooney, Sandra Bullock.	*** Gravity (2013, Drama) George Clooney, Sandra Bullock.	*** Gravity (2013, Drama) George Clooney, Sandra Bullock.	*** Gravity (2013, Drama) George Clooney, Sandra Bullock.	*** Gravity (2013, Drama) George Clooney, Sandra Bullock.	*** Gravity (2013, Drama) George Clooney, Sandra Bullock.	*** Gravity (2013, Drama) George Clooney, Sandra Bullock.	*** Gravity (2013, Drama) George Clooney, Sandra Bullock.	*** Gravity (2013, Drama) George Clooney, Sandra Bullock.	*** Gravity (2013, Drama) George Clooney, Sandra Bullock.	*** Gravity (2013, Drama) George Clooney, Sandra Bullock.	*** Gravity (2013, Drama) George Clooney, Sandra Bullock.		
SHOW	351	851	318	545	545	(400) *** Bringing Out the Dead	(315) *** Double Jeopardy (99, Thriller) Ashley Judd, Bruce Greenwood, Tommy Lee Jones.	(315) *** Double Jeopardy (99, Thriller) Ashley Judd, Bruce Greenwood, Tommy Lee Jones.	(315) *** Double Jeopardy (99, Thriller) Ashley Judd, Bruce Greenwood, Tommy Lee Jones.	(315) *** Double Jeopardy (99, Thriller) Ashley Judd, Bruce Greenwood, Tommy Lee Jones.	(315) *** Double Jeopardy (99, Thriller) Ashley Judd, Bruce Greenwood, Tommy Lee Jones.	(315) *** Double Jeopardy (99, Thriller) Ashley Judd, Bruce Greenwood, Tommy Lee Jones.	(315) *** Double Jeopardy (99, Thriller) Ashley Judd, Bruce Greenwood, Tommy Lee Jones.	(315) *** Double Jeopardy (99, Thriller) Ashley Judd, Bruce Greenwood, Tommy Lee Jones.	(315) *** Double Jeopardy (99, Thriller) Ashley Judd, Bruce Greenwood, Tommy Lee Jones.	(315) *** Double Jeopardy (99, Thriller) Ashley Judd, Bruce Greenwood, Tommy Lee Jones.	(315) *** Double Jeopardy (99, Thriller) Ashley Judd, Bruce Greenwood, Tommy Lee Jones.	(315) *** Double Jeopardy (99, Thriller) Ashley Judd, Bruce Greenwood, Tommy Lee Jones.		
TMC	375	859	327	553	553	(425) *** The Lighthouse	(315) *** Men (2022, Horror) Rory Kinnear, Paapa Essiedu, Jessie Buckley.	(315) *** Men (2022, Horror) Rory Kinnear, Paapa Essiedu, Jessie Buckley.	(315) *** Men (2022, Horror) Rory Kinnear, Paapa Essiedu, Jessie Buckley.	(315) *** Men (2022, Horror) Rory Kinnear, Paapa Essiedu, Jessie Buckley.	(315) *** Men (2022, Horror) Rory Kinnear, Paapa Essiedu, Jessie Buckley.	(315) *** Men (2022, Horror) Rory Kinnear, Paapa Essiedu, Jessie Buckley.	(315) *** Men (2022, Horror) Rory Kinnear, Paapa Essiedu, Jessie Buckley.	(315) *** Men (2022, Horror) Rory Kinnear, Paapa Essiedu, Jessie Buckley.	(315) *** Men (2022, Horror) Rory Kinnear, Paapa Essiedu, Jessie Buckley.	(315) *** Men (2022, Horror) Rory Kinnear, Paapa Essiedu, Jessie Buckley.	(315) *** Men (2022, Horror) Rory Kinnear, Paapa Essiedu, Jessie Buckley.	(315) *** Men (2022, Horror) Rory Kinnear, Paapa Essiedu, Jessie Buckley.		
M - Mediacom A - AdamsWells D1 - Dish D2 - DirecTV																				

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Glue's kin

6 Belief

9 AWOL pursuers

12 Easy basket

13 Avril follower

14 Goal

15 Actress De La Garza

16 Bit of glitter

18 Salsa scoopers

20 Lawyer Clooney

21 Abysmal

23 Business card no.

24 Preliminary version

25 Rhyming tributes

27 Governing gp.

29 Freight train unit

31 Prolific inventor

35 Some IRAs

37 PC programs

38 Caravan beast

41 "Guinness Book" suffix

43 — loss

44 "Got it"

45 Buckeye

47 Language of Madrid

49 Court proceeding

52 Go astray

53 Yucatan "Bravo!"

54 Strainer

55 "Of course"

56 Drama with masks

57 Some door locks

2 Have a bug

3 Stretchy fabric

4 Comedian Fey

5 Put into law

6 "Count me in!"

7 Easy targets

8 Ms. Farrow

9 Igneous rock source

10 Kebab go-with

11 Refine metal

17 Aslan's land

19 Soul mate?

21 Short do

22 Ruckus

24 Carried out

26 Bug barrier

28 Soccer star from Argentina

30 Gmail alternative

32 Droopy-eared pooch

33 Choose

34 Code-breaking gp.

36 Sneaky laugh

38 Gospel singer Houston

39 Easy — (simple)

40 Stands for

42 Hotsy—

45 Norway's capital

46 Operatic solo

48 Charged bit

50 Broad st.

51 Guitar great Paul

DOWN

1 School org.

Solution time: 25 mins.

S	L	I	T		G	A	M		S	N	I	P
P	I	C	O		O	S	U		H	I	D	E
A	L	U	M		O	A	F		E	C	O	N
M	I	S	A	D		F	R	E	E	S	T	
			T	A	S			S	S	W		
L	O	G	O			H	A	W	T	H	O	R
E	R					O	D	E		R	O	O
G	O	E	S	A	W	O	L		S	K	I	T
			A	T	E			L	O	T		
A	C	T	O	R	S		D	R	Y	R	U	N
M	O	J	O		O	N	O		L	O	B	E
I	D	O	L		B	E	N		U	T	E	S
D	E	B	S		A	W	E		S	I	R	S

Yesterday's answer 6-2



2nd Place

Abram Gehrett of Bluffton Middle School took second place in the eighth-grade boys' bowling tournament. Gehrett shot a four-game total of 845 with scores of 226, 180, 181, and 258.

Penville Soccer Club finishes first week in its eighth season

The Pennville Soccer Club is up and running for youth soccer players in Adams, Blackford, Jay, and Wells counties.

The recreational league started its eighth season on May 27 and consists of three divisions paired in age groups ages 3-12. The league will conclude the season with a league tournament Saturday, June 24, at Pennville Park.

Below are the divisions and where they stand so far. Wins are three points, draws one point, loss zero points:

Stinger (ages 3-5):

The Stinger division plays four on four soccer with no goaltenders.

T1. Penrod Monuments Yellow Jackets 1-1-0 three points.

T1. Progressive Del Toro Hornets 1-1-0, three points.

T1. Ryzone's Wasps 1-0-0, three points.

4. I.D.C Resturant Bees 0-1-0, zero points.

Leading goal-scorers:

1. Anniston Hammond 14 goals.

2. Benjamin Barrios 9 goals.

Space (ages 6-8):

The Space division plays five-on-five with no goaltenders.

T1. Dave's Heating and Cooling Rockets

2-0-0, six points.

T1. Penville Pantry Meteors 2-0-0, six points.

3. PG14 Radio Asteroids 1-1-0, three points.

T4. Bro Shadow Stars 0-2-0, zero points.

T4. Vinson Rental Properties Galaxy 0-2-0, zero points.

Leading goal-scorers:

T1. Vinny New 5 goals

T1. Jude Cline 5 goals

3. Daniel Brant 4 goals

Wild Cat (ages 9-12):

The Wild Cat division plays seven-on-seven and has a goaltender.

1. Penrod Monuments Jaguars 2-0-0, six points.

T2. New Beginnings Holiness Church Cougars 1-1-0, three points.

T2. Penville General Store Lions 1-0-0, three points.

T4. Patriot Sportswear Cheetahs 0-1-0, zero points.

T4. Poet Tigers 0-1-0, zero points.

T4. Briar Patch Leopards 0-1-0, zero points.

Leading goal-scorers:

1. Lyle Beiswanger 4 goals

2. Jade Westgerdes 3 goals

SEC settles on 8-game football conference schedule for 2024

By RALPH D. RUSSO
AP College Football Writer

DESTIN, Fla. (AP) — The Southeastern Conference will play eight league games in 2024 when it expands to 16 teams with the additions of Oklahoma and Texas, but beyond that the schedule model is still to be determined.

Commissioner Greg Sankey said Thursday, the second-to-last day of the SEC's spring meetings, that the conference's university presidents unanimously voted to implement a short-term solution to a scheduling conundrum that has been debated within the league for more than a year.

SEC leaders have been trying to decide between a nine-game conference schedule that would include three annual rivalry games and an eight-game model with one annual rivalry game.

"Our long-term options are fully open," Sankey said.

He also said, confidently, a long-term scheduling model would be hashed before the conference returns to the Florida Pan-handle this time next year.

"Nobody wants to go through this every year," Sankey said.

Football matchups for the 2024 season will be released on June 14 on the SEC Net-

work, without exact dates. Sankey said traditional rivalries such as Alabama-Auburn and Mississippi-Mississippi State would be honored.

"Are you asking me: Are we not going to play the Iron bowl and Egg Bowl? I won't be the commissioner if that happens," Sankey said.

Sankey would not commit to a renewal of the Texas-Texas A&M rivalry, which has not been played since the Aggies left the Big 12 for the SEC in 2012.

"I'm pretty confident they'll play before (2026) though," Sankey said.

Other yearly rivalries such as Alabama-Tennessee, Georgia-Auburn and Ole Miss-LSU could be worked into the 2024 schedule as well, but are not as likely as they would have been with a nine-game slate.

SEC leaders had already said they were planning to abandon the two-division structure the conference has had since 1991 when Texas and Oklahoma relocate from the Big 12. The top two teams in the standings will meet in the league championship in 2024 for the first time.

The Texas and OU move comes a year earlier than the SEC originally expected. Texas and Oklahoma were contractually bound to the Big 12 through the 2024-25 school year.

High School Calendar

FRIDAY, JUNE 2
BOYS GOLF: (sectional) Bluffton, Norwell, Southern Wells at Timber Ridge Golf Course, 9 a.m.

TRACK & FIELD (boys): (state finals) Norwell at Indiana University, 3 p.m.

SATURDAY, JUNE 3
BASEBALL: (regional championship) Norwell vs. New Castle at Oak Hill High School, 1 p.m.

MONDAY, JUNE 4
No events scheduled.

TUESDAY, JUNE 5
No events scheduled.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 6
No events scheduled.

THURSDAY, JUNE 7
No events scheduled.

FRIDAY, JUNE 8
No events scheduled.

News-Banner Scoreboard

BASKETBALL

National Basketball Association

FINALS
(Best-of-7; x-if necessary)

Denver 1, Miami 0

Thursday, June 1: Denver 104, Miami 93

Sunday, June 4: Miami at Denver, 8 p.m.

Wednesday, June 7: Denver at Miami, 8:30 p.m.

Friday, June 9: Denver at Miami, 8:30 p.m.

x-Monday, June 12: Miami at Denver, TBA

x-Thursday, June 15: Denver at Miami, TBA

x-Sunday, June 18: Miami at Denver, TBA

BASEBALL

American League

Thursday's Games

Toronto 3, Milwaukee 1

Boston 8, Cincinnati 2

Minnesota 7, Cleveland 6

L.A. Angels at Houston, 8:10 p.m.

Friday's Games

Toronto (Bassitt 5-4) at N.Y. Mets

(Verlander 2-2), 7:10 p.m.

Cleveland (Civale 1-1) at Minnesota

(Ober 3-2), 8:10 p.m.

Colorado (Anderson 0-0) at Kansas City (Lyles 0-9), 8:10 p.m.

Detroit (Olson 0-0) at Chicago White Sox (TBD), 8:10 p.m.

N.Y. Yankees (Severino 0-0) at L.A. Dodgers (Kershaw 6-4), 10:10 p.m.

National League

Thursday's Games

Toronto 3, Milwaukee 1

San Diego 10, Miami 1

N.Y. Mets 4, Philadelphia 2

Arizona 5, Colorado 4

Boston 8, Cincinnati 2

Friday's Games

Milwaukee (Burnes 4-4) at Cincinnati (Williamson 0-0), 5:10 p.m.

St. Louis (Flaherty 3-4) at Pittsburgh (Contreras 3-4), 7:05 p.m.

Toronto (Bassitt 5-4) at N.Y. Mets

(Verlander 2-2), 7:10 p.m.

Chicago Cubs (Taillon 0-3) at San Diego (Wacha 5-1), 9:40 p.m.

N.Y. Yankees (Severino 0-0) at L.A. Dodgers (Kershaw 6-4), 10:10 p.m.

HOCKEY

National Hockey League

FINALS
(Best-of-7; x-if necessary)

Vegas vs. Florida

Saturday, June 3: Florida at Vegas, 8 p.m.

Monday, June 5: Florida at Vegas, 8 p.m.

Thursday, June 8: Vegas at Florida, 8 p.m.

Saturday, June 10: Vegas at Florida, 8 p.m.

x-Tuesday, June 13: Florida at Vegas, TBA

x-Friday, June 16: Vegas at Florida, TBA

x-Monday, June 19: Florida at Vegas, TBA

Riley avoids big numbers for 67 on tough day at Memorial

By DOUG FERGUSON
AP Golf Writer

DUBLIN, Ohio (AP) — Davis Riley opened with a 67 at the Memorial to finish atop the leaderboard after the opening round for the second straight year. And that's where the similarities end.

Riley birdied three of his last four holes Thursday afternoon when the turf was firm and the wind was swirling and the bad breaks led to big numbers, as Rory McIlroy found out.

Riley was in a six-way share of the lead last year. On Thursday, he led by one over Matt Wallace. Jordan Spieth was in the group at 69, ending his hopes for a bogey-free day by hitting into two bunkers on the 18th hole and saving bogey from the second one.

It was hot. It was hard. And at times it was tough to watch.

Chad Ramey hit four shots that went into the water on the ninth hole, which featured a front pin and a stream in front of the green. He made a 13, the highest score ever recorded on any of the holes at Muirfield Village.

He posted an 88, still shy of the record high score of 92 that Roger Maltbie shot in 1979 in a second round that featured 30 mph wind and a wind chill index of 13 degrees.

Dry and hot is the weather tournament founder Jack Nicklaus always wanted but rarely gets, and there were plenty of comparisons to a U.S. Open except for the generous fairways.

Defending champion Billy Horschel has been in a slump, and Muirfield Village was no place to try to snap out of that. Horschel had four 6s on his card of 84.

"My confidence is the lowest it's been in my entire career. I think ever in my entire golf career," Horschel said. "So it's funny, as low as it feels, it feels like I'm not that far off at the same time. Which is insane to see when you see me shoot 84 today."

Wallace, who needs a victory this week to avoid U.S. Open qualifying, posted his 68 in the morning before the wind and the temperatures picked up. Shane Lowry had five straight birdies in the morning in relatively calm conditions, but even he wasn't immune to a fast golf course that could be punishing without notice.

McIlroy was 3 under for his round playing the 18th when his drive went right — not unusual for the shape of that hole — and was tumbling toward the sand until it stopped. That was very unusual. The ball was nearly belt-high and he could bare-



ly take a stance. He did his best to chop it out, and it just cleared the bunker into thick grass.

From there, his 9-iron caught a flyer and sailed over the green to the shaggy hill. His flop shot came out clunky and over the green and its front pin. His chip was weak. He missed the putt. And his triple bogey wiped out an otherwise good day.

Spieth almost was in that predicament. At least he was in the sand, but he hit a poor 7-iron that barely got out of the sand, just ahead of McIlroy's ball. That turned out to be a break, because when Spieth saw that happened to McIlroy's shot, he went down to a pitching wedge.

It was a flyer, but it at least took a short hop into the sand in front of the green. He came inches away from holing — as he did for birdie from the bunker on No. 10 — and got away with a bogey.

"It's nice to beat a tough golf course," Spieth said.

Mark Hubbard also was at 69 and tried to remind himself it was a very good score after his bogey-bogey-bogey finish.

"I guess on paper it wasn't what I wanted, but I had 5-iron into 16, 7-wood into 17 and 4-iron into 18. Like that's a little tough coming in there today," Hubbard said. "So I told my caddie that's the least mad I'm ever going to be bogeying the last three."

Jon Rahm and Adam Scott were at 70 playing in the morning. Scottie Scheffler didn't make a putt longer than 6 feet and shot 74. That was his highest opening round since Las Vegas in October 2021.

The course average was 74, the highest for a first round at Muirfield Village since 2000. Eight players failed to break 80 — that doesn't include Dylan Frittelli, who was 15 over through 14 holes when he withdrew with an illness.

Riley's only bogey was nearly a superb par, from the back bunker on the 18th to 4 feet, but then he missed the putt. A very good round turned into a great one when he made a 12-foot birdie on the sixth, hit wedge to 4 feet on the par-5 seventh and finished with a 12-foot birdie on the ninth hole.

His description of the wedge at No. 7 illustrated the difficulty.

"I got 118 yards and I'm landing it 10 yards short of the pin, 30 feet short, and it's skipping all the way there. And the wind was up," Riley said. "This is probably one of the more difficult ones all year."



Fan whose car was damaged by flying tire at Indianapolis 500 will get new ride

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — An Indianapolis 500 fan whose vehicle was damaged when a tire flew off a race-car and out of the track during the race will receive a new car, an Indianapolis Motor Speedway spokesman said.

The Indianapolis Star

that Penske Entertainment will provide fan Robin Matthews, who is from Indianapolis, with a new car following the incident.

"I didn't see it come down," she said. "I came down and they said, 'Robin, it's your car!' I thought, 'No. I thought somebody was pranking me. It's a car. It's fine.'"

The wheel came off with less than 20 laps to go in Sunday's race when Felix Rosenqvist and Kyle Kirkwood collided. Kirkwood's left rear tire bounced off the track and over the fence and the corner of the grandstand in the

second turn before landing in a parking lot. It traveled about 350 yards (320 meters) before crashing into the front of Matthews' parked Chevrolet.

A red flag halted the race after the crash, and two more red flags followed before Josef Newgarden won by beating Marcus Ericsson in a one-lap shootout.

One spectator received treatment at the infield medical center with minor injuries related to debris flying. An IMS spokesman said at the time that there were no injuries related to the tire.

IndyCar owner Roger Penske says he is certain series officials will investigate what led to the tire sailing over the catch fence and grandstands.

"We haven't had a wheel come off in a long time," Penske said. "We were very fortunate we didn't have a bad accident."





It's OK to Shop and Compare... Then come to Hiday.

It'll be like watching the sun come out after the rain.



HIDAY AUTOMOTIVE GROUP

CHRYSLER-DODGE-JEEP-RAM

1791 N. Main St., Bluffton

260-824-1931 • 888-824-0901

www.hidaymotors.com

CHEVROLET

1743 N. Main St., Bluffton

260-824-0900 • 800-824-0901

Service with a Smile!



Barry Scott Service Manager

Mark Foreman Service Consultant

Marion Wells Service Consultant

Hiday Motors

1743 N. Main St., Bluffton • 824-0900

INNOVATIVE CONCEPTS

AUDIO VIDEO SECURITY NETWORKING

Be Summer Ready

The Best On The Water. Loud & Clear!

• Sound Systems for boats

Powerful Sound For Off-Road Adventure

• RV's • Golf Carts • ATV's



(260) 724-2276

1421 Manchester St., Decatur

1/2 block west of U.S. 27 North

www.icav.us

PRECISION SERVICE

Family, Farm and Fleet Vehicle Repair

FLEET ACCOUNTS AVAILABLE

0520 S. Decker Dr. Bluffton

"The Quality Service You 'Deserve!'"

260-824-9149

FREE Estimates

Bluffton Tire Inc.

1308 S. Main St. Bluffton

10% OFF Discontinued Closeout Tires

1-260-824-0418

The Classifieds

SUDOKU

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively.

King Classic Sudoku

		5					9	
9	1				8			4
	3	2	9					
	5	3	1					8
	8		5	7		9		
	2							
	9			6	7	5		
			5				4	
			4		2		8	

Difficulty: ★★★★★

6/2

©2023 King Features Syndicate, Inc.

SERVICES

Services

CHRISTIAN WOMAN WILL run errands, fix lunch, or serve as companionship a few hours a day, part-time, contact 765-210-0997.

Services

MARV'S CONSTRUCTION Room additions, fix old saggy floors, all types remodeling. Redo bathrooms, old foundation repairs. Marv Schwartz: 260-525-8877.

LONE VIKING Veteran run lawn care service. Affordable. Will negotiate and beat competitors prices. Call or txt 260-273-7645 for a free quote or set up an appointment. 260-273-7645 Lonevikingllc@gmail.com

WESLEY FINANCIAL GROUP, LLC - Timeshare Cancellation Experts - Over \$50,000,000 in timeshare debt and fees cancelled in 2019. Get free informational package and learn how to get rid of your timeshare! Free consultations. Over 450 positive reviews. Call 877-329-1207 (I)

FOR SALE

Pets



FRENCH BULLDOG PUPPIES 14 weeks- full AKC, all shots etc Facebook- Perfect French bulldogs 260-307-3490 angela46992@yahoo.com https://m.facebook.com/groups/1281436650673060/?ref=share&mibextid=S66gvF

Public Sale Calendar

BIDDING ENDS JUNE 3 - (Online Only Auction) - Schwartz, seller. Great collection of vintage car parts, Ford tractor, dump trailer, Bobcat backhoe & tractors, tools, mower parts, collectibles, construction equipment, much more. Sale manager, Isaac Stoller, *The Steffen Group Inc.*, 260-824-3006.

BIDDING ENDS JUNE 4 - (Online Only) - Leffers Family, seller's. Huge complete estate closeout. 2008 Ford F250 Lariat super duty pickup w/35,711 original miles, 2011 Kubota L5240 tractor w/cab, 2018 Diamond C tandem axel dump trailer, tandem axel implement trailer, 2014 Kubota RTV-X utility vehicle, small farm equipment, farm, mechanics and construction tools, Ottawa hit and miss engine, complete windmill, lawn and garden furniture and equipment. *The Steffen Group Inc.*, www.steffengrp.com, 260-824-3006.

JUNE 6 - 7 p.m. EST - Estate of Ida Hilty, Phillip Hilty, owner. 2499 S US Hwy. 27, Berne. Real estate auction! Modern Amish home with electricity, 3,056 sq. feet building, 1,200 sq. retail shop space w/bath, 1,800 sq. feet living area, 2 bedroom, 1 bath living space, 2+/- acres, 6" walls, beautiful hickory kitchen, built in 2019. Items selling following real estate: 10'x16' shed, propane heater, road sign, stove, refrigerator. *Krueckeberg Auction & Realty LLC*, kjauction.com, 260-724-7402.

BIDDING STARTS CLOSING JUNE 9 - 10 a.m. EST - Secured creditors and various consignors, owners. Online only truck & equipment auction! Offering 300+ lots! 2012-2014 Freightliner M2106 box trucks, dump trucks, day cabs, utility trucks, utility trailers, SUV's, pickup, 100+ various skid steer attachments, 40' shipping container, tents, work benches/tool boxes & more! Truck & equipment preview: Contact our office to set up appointment. Pick up: June 12 & 13, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., 815 Adams Street, Decatur, IN. *Krueckeberg Auction & Realty LLC*, 260-724-7402, Kjauction.com.

JUNE 18-JUNE 25 - (ONLINE ONLY AUCTION) - Various consignors, seller. Outstanding line of machinist tooling, lathes, 1st Edition Machinery's Hand Book, 5-ton presses, metal cutting saw, vintage and handmade fishing lures, collection of vintage rod & reels, vintage toys, wooden boat, canoe, 1950's Massey Harris 44 gas tractor, lawn roller, heavy duty engine hoist, antiques, collectibles, glassware, modern furniture. Preview: June 15 and June 22 from 3-6 p.m. 102 S. Jefferson St. Ossian, IN. Sale manager, Patrick Carter, *The Steffen Group Inc.*, 260-824-3006, www.steffengrp.com.

JUNE 19-JUNE 23 - (Online Only Auction) - Golfo Di Napoli Realty, LLC, seller's. 7916 South Warren Road, Warren, IN. "State of the Art Organic Cheese Manufacturing Facility." Tract 1: Modern 31,000 SF manufacturing building with retail area on 40+/- acres. Tract 2: Complete line of Italian cheese processing equipment. Tract 3: Combination of Tract 1 and 2. Brandon Steffen, sale manager, *The Steffen Group Inc.*, (260) 824-3006. **BIDDING OPENS SOON AND STARTS CLOSING JUNE 25 STARTING AT 4 PM EST - Multiple Consignors, owner.** Online only consignment auction! 1,000+ lots! Featuring furniture, household items, glassware, collectibles, antiques, TV's, silver chairs, tools, guns, Amazon return items & much more! Auction Preview: June 22, 3-5 p.m., 815 Adams Street, Decatur, IN. Pick up times: June 26, 1-6 p.m. & June 27, 9 a.m.-noon. *Krueckeberg Auction & Realty LLC*, 260-724-7402, Kjauction.com.

Pets

MINI DACHSHUND PUPPIES 2 chocolate and tan males and 2 chocolate tan females will be ready on 1st week june 1st shots worming vet checked due claws removed playful \$450 mom and dad on site 260-701-0666 andyryan121@hotmail.com

HELOISE HINT: Do not leave gardening tools lying around outside or in the garage. Rakes, hoes and trowels can be dangerous to your nosy pets — and you! Email HELOISE@Heloise.com.

EMPLOYMENT

Help Wanted

AMERICA'S BEST VALUE Inn & Suites, 100 Charles Deam Court, Bluffton, has immediate openings for front desk & housekeeping, full & part-time positions available, hourly rate of \$10+. Apply in person.



WE ARE HIRING 1ST SHIFT COMPETITIVE WAGES FULL TIME EMPLOYMENT

APPLY ONLINE AT [HTTPS://ALH-BUILDING.COM](https://alhbldg.com)

MUST PASS DRUG SCREEN

MARKLE, IN



LENGERICH MEATS is looking for a motivated and reliable individual with great attention to detail to join our team. The position is for general labor starting at \$15.00/hr. Send your resume to Lengerich@frontier.com or stop in and fill out an application.

NEED MORE EMPLOYEES?

Place a 20 word, six day line classified ad for \$24.50. Add a graphic or photo for an additional \$5. Contact the Bluffton News-Banner, 260-824-0224, 125 N. Johnson St., submit online at www.news-banner.com and click on classifieds.

Help Wanted



CONSTRUCTION CAREERS- ALL SKILL LEVELS AT JACKSON CONSTRUCTION With our continued growth, we're seeking to hire hard-working local team members for several commercial & industrial construction-related roles. These include skilled carpenters and laborers in masonry, carpentry and steel erection. All skill and experience levels will be considered with a good work ethic and an interest to work in the field at our various construction sites around the region. These are full time positions with paid benefits, competitive wages, tool allowance and matching 401k. All with a company where we recently celebrated our 75th anniversary. Come join our team! Please send resume to hireme@jjacksonco.com or call our office in town at (260) 824-0918 to get a job application.

www.jjacksonco.com

REAL ESTATE

Home For Sale

5 BEDROOM, 2 bath, Poneto home, 2+ acres, several out-buildings, many updates, Southern Wells School District, \$325,000, 260-273-1607.

RENTALS

House Rentals

ONE BEDROOM, BLUFFTON house, appliances included, service animals only, \$625 a month, 260-437-7591.

Wanted to Rent

NEED TO RENT or buy on contract, 3 bedroom house, apartment, or trailer in Bluffton. Call 260-228-1014.

VEHICLES

Auto/Trucks

1994 CHEVROLET SUBURBAN, 2500, 184,000 miles, white/blue, 4x2, 6.5 turbo diesel, new paint, loaded, Reese hitch, trailer brakes, original, 260-450-2432.

Lottery Numbers

Thursday's Drawings HOOSIER LOTTERY

Cash 5 — 10-18-19-20-38
Cash4Life — 20-24-37-41-52, Cash Ball: 03
Quick Draw Midday — 07-21-27-29-37-40-43-44-45-48-51-53-56-66-67-72-75-76-79-80, BE: 53
Daily Three-Midday — 06-06-08, SB:08
Daily Three-Evening — 07-06-03, SB: 05
Daily Four-Midday — 04-08-04-00, SB: 08
Daily Four-Evening — 01-08-06-07, SB: 05
Quick Draw Evening — 02-20-22-30-33-36-37-42-43-46-47-48-52-53-54-56-57-58-61-72, BE: 56
Hoosier Lotto — Estimated jackpot (for Saturday): \$19.4 million

MEGA MILLIONS

Estimated jackpot (for Friday): \$203 million

POWERBALL

Estimated jackpot (for Saturday): \$262 million

June

GOODS & SERVICES DIRECTORY



Jerry Flack & Associates
Retirement Advisors
A Senior Citizen Answers Our Phone!
OFFICE 260-824-1618 • Corner of Main & Market • Bluffton, IN

ASSISTING IN:
• FREE Medicare Supplement Comparison
• Life Planning
• Safe Money Ideas
• Dental - Vision - Hearing

YOUR LOCAL AGENTS, HERE FOR YOU.

INDIANA FARM BUREAU INSURANCE®
BLUFFTON OFFICE: (260) 824-2234
1307 Baker Place • Bluffton, IN
Mike Lampton | Michael Towne | Jacob Duncan

AMISH CREW
will do roofing, siding, remodeling, pole barns. Specializing in redoing old barns. Free estimates. Call 260-438-2508

Come See Us for Your CBD Oil Needs
Rx Warren Pharmacy
(260)375-2135
Nature's Sunshine Distributor
222 N. Wayne St., Warren • 1-800-895-7035
Terry Daniels, Pharmacist • Melinda Daniels, RN

As a resident of the Wells County community for decades, Attorney, Gerret J. Swearingen, has devoted his legal practice to assisting clients in preserving the family assets from the high cost of Nursing Home and In-Home Healthcare.

As your guide through the "Medicaid Planning" process, Swearingen Elder Law will provide the right path to both protect your life savings and receive the quality of care we all deserve.



1645 Hillcrest Dr., Suite 2A
Ossian, IN 46777

SWEARINGEN ELDER LAW

• Medicaid Planning • In-Home Healthcare Planning
• Durable Power of Attorney • Wills, Living Wills, & Advance Healthcare Directives
• Estate Planning & Deeds • Special Needs Trusts
• Long Term Care Planning

(260) 888-9256

FREE INITIAL CONSULTATION!

STOR-N-GO STORAGE UNITS
2740 E. 200 N. • Bluffton, IN • 260.273.8345
with Security Cameras

Primary Contracting, LLC 260-223-4276 Free Estimates
Decks • Garages • Pole Barns • Siding • Remodeling
Metal and Shingle Roofing • Storm Damage • Trim Wood Working and more!
Owner - Edwin Wickey COMPETITIVE RATES!

A-1 U-Stor
Safe & Secure Self Storage
824-1846
• Safety Lighting • Clean Units
• 24 Hr. Access
• Video Cameras
www.a1-ustor.com
After hours & Saturdays
Call 273-9678 or 824-4782
In Monroe at corner of U.S. 27 and S.R. 124
Office at 1180 N. Main, Bluffton

The Golden Dog
training & boarding
"MAKING DOGS GOLDEN SINCE 2019"
260-273-9973
Pupslovethedolldog.com

Wickey Construction
Free Estimate on Metal Roofing & More
260-273-9776

Home Remodel and Repair
Locally Owned
Repair Bowed Basement Walls
Foundations repaired
Floor joist repair or replaced
Concrete • Doors
Windows • Painting
Tile • Small Jobs Welcome
Text me at 260-301-1269
Jim Baker

D's Landscaping
918.370.3593
193 North Oak Street ext, Bluffton
• Full Lawn Care • Tree Removal
• Demo/Junk Removal • Tree Trimming
All Surrounding Areas
24-hour service

The HIDEAWAY BEERBOURBON
THURSDAY - Dollar Off Drinks (Excludes Pop)
WEDNESDAY - KARAOKE
FRI. & SAT. - Live Music
Follow us on FB for our Events.
123 S JOHNSON ST. • 824-0455

JC'S GARAGE DOOR SALES & SERVICE
All makes & models • broken springs & cables
Owner: James Fisher • Sales: Carl Fisher
"50 Years of Combined Experience"
Call us at 824-3262

Sure-Flo Seamless Gutters
5" & 6" Continuous Gutters
Leaf Protection Systems
Large Color Selection - FREE Estimates
260-888-5062
www.seamlessgutter.net

Zap Electric, Inc.
260-824-2927
Commercial-Industrial-Residential
24 Hr. Emergency Service
Charles Miller-Electician
1233 W. Cherry St., Bluffton
FREE Estimates

For as little as ...
\$123 PER ISSUE
YOUR BUSINESS IN THE NEWS-BANNER Every Day!
Call 824-0224 or 622-4108
July deadline is Tues., June 27!

SUDOKU ANSWER

9	8	£	£	£	6	7	£	£
6	7	£	£	£	9	£	8	9
£	£	9	£	£	9	8	£	£
9	£	£	£	8	9	6	£	7
£	£	6	7	£	9	9	8	£
8	9	7	6	£	£	£	9	£
£	£	8	9	7	6	£	£	9
7	9	9	8	£	£	£	£	6
£	6	£	9	£	£	9	7	8

Follow us at... twitter.com/newsbanner

U.S. pressures air bag inflator company that refuses a recall

**By TOM KRISHER
AP Auto Writer**
DETROIT (AP) — The U.S. government is turning up the pressure on ARC Automotive to recall 67 million potentially dangerous air bag inflators by ordering the company to answer questions under oath and threatening fines if it doesn't respond.

NHTSA argues that the recall is justified because two people have been killed in the United States and Canada and at least seven others injured by ARC inflators, which can explode with too much force and expel shapnel. The explosions, which first occurred in 2009, have continued as recently as this year.

The special order from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration asks multiple questions about whether ARC expects any of its inflators to blow apart in the future, and whether it has notified cus-

tomers about the risk.

The agency wants ARC Automotive Inc., based in Knoxville, Tennessee, to recall the inflators, which can blow apart a metal canister. But ARC is refusing, setting up a possible court fight.

ARC maintains that no safety defect exists, that NHTSA's demand is based on a hypothesis rather than technical conclusions and that the agency has no authority to order a parts manufacturer to carry out recalls.

NHTSA has tentatively concluded that the inflators are defective. The next steps are a final conclusion, public hearing and potential lawsuit asking a judge to order a recall.

Since ARC inflators can be in both driver and passenger front air bags, people who travel in at least 33 million U.S. vehicles could be at risk.

In the order, NHTSA asks ARC to explain if it

expects inflators to rupture due to something more than "random 'one-off'" manufacturing problems. More than 1 million ARC inflators have been recalled already due to what the company describes as isolated trouble with manufacturing.

The order also instructs the company to estimate how many inflators will rupture while in use in the U.S. in the future, and it asks ARC why it changed its inflator manufacturing process in 2018 to install a scope that detects whether welding debris can block inflator vents.

NHTSA contends that byproducts from welding during manufacturing can clog a vent inside the inflator canister that's designed to let gas escape to fill air bags quickly in a crash. Pressure can build to the point where the canister is blown apart.

Messages were left Thursday seeking comment from ARC. The company

has to respond by June 14 or face a maximum fine of \$131.6 million and potential criminal penalties.

Michael Brooks, executive director of the Center for Auto Safety, a non-profit advocacy group, said NHTSA is going back and connecting dots to counter what ARC asserted in its response to the recall request.

The agency, he said, seems to be trying to get ARC to say that it's possible other inflators can rupture in the future. "They are simply looking for an admission from ARC that this can happen again," Brooks said.

The company, he said, would have a hard time arguing that no more problems will occur. "I don't know that this is something that they can legitimately assert, that there's never going to be another inflator rupture," Brooks said. "There's a high likelihood of another rupture of this type. There may not

be a lot of them."

NHTSA also wants to know why ARC added the scope to its manufacturing process in 2018, and it's demanding to know which ARC employee approved the decision. "I think they're trying to get at what was ARC basing that decision on and does it suggest that there's a defect in the population of inflators that were produced before that date," Brooks said.

The agency said in its recall request letter sent to ARC in April that it's not aware of any inflators rupturing that were manufactured after the scope was installed.

Owners of vehicles made by at least a dozen automakers — Chevrolet, Buick, GMC, Ford, Toyota, Stellantis, Volkswagen, Audi, BMW, Porsche, Hyundai and Kia — are left to wonder anxiously whether their vehicles contain driver or front passenger inflators

made by ARC.

Because ARC supplies inflators that are included in other manufacturers' airbags, there's no easy way for vehicle owners to determine whether their inflators are made by ARC. Neither NHTSA nor ARC nor the automakers have released a full list of affected models.

One of the people who died after an inflator explosion was Marlene Beaudoin, a 40-year-old mother of 10 from Michigan's Upper Peninsula who was struck by metal fragments when her 2015 Chevrolet Traverse SUV was involved in a minor crash in 2021. She and four of her sons had been on their way to get ice cream. The sons were not hurt.

In a response letter to NHTSA earlier this month, ARC said no automaker has found a defect common to all 67 million inflators, and no root cause has been identified in the inflator ruptures.

3 people charged with aiding Chinese campaign pressuring expats

**By JENNIFER PELTZ
Associated Press**
NEW YORK (AP) — An American sleuth and two Chinese men faced jurors Wednesday in the first trial to come out of U.S. claims that China's government has tried to harass, intimidate and arm-twist dissidents and others abroad into returning home.

Michael McMahon, Zheng Congying and Zhu Yong are charged with being part of a conspiracy to hound a former Chinese city official, his wife and their adult daughter to get him to go back to his homeland, where the government alleges he took bribes.

"If you are willing to go back to the mainland and spend 10 years in prison, your wife and children will be all right," read a translated note that Zheng helped tape to their New Jersey door in 2018, though his lawyer said Zheng quickly

had second thoughts and took the note down.

Prosecutors say it was one in a series of pressure tactics that included flying in the man's then-octogenarian father to warn him that relatives would suffer if he didn't come home.

"The victim and his family endured years of harassment," Assistant U.S. Attorney Irisa Chen said in an opening statement. "It's part of a public Chinese government initiative to force people living abroad to return to China against their will."

The defendants, charged with acting as illegal agents for China, all say they weren't aware they were doing Beijing's bidding in what's known as "Operation Fox Hunt." Their lawyers said the men believed they were helping to collect a private debt.

The trial comes as grievances mount between Bei-

jing and Washington. This year, a Chinese spy balloon flew over the U.S., U.S. law enforcement authorities accused China of setting up a secret police station in New York, and -- just this Tuesday -- the U.S. military complained that a Chinese fighter jet made an "unnecessarily aggressive maneuver" near an American reconnaissance aircraft over the South China Sea.

China told the U.S. to stop such surveillance flights, maintains that the spy balloon was a civilian aircraft that went off-course and says the supposed secret police outposts just provide such services as driver's license renewals.

The U.S., meanwhile, has in recent years brought a number of cases like the one now on trial in a Brooklyn federal courthouse, saying they are examples "transnational repression."

China in July 2014 announced "Operation Fox Hunt," a plan to pursue and repatriate nationals it considers fugitives. Those on the wanted list include people from Muslim minority groups who simply traveled abroad for study and people whose political and cultural views clashed on some level with China's ruling Communist Party, which tolerates no dissent.

Beijing has denied all accusations of issuing threats to force repatriations and says the U.S. is discrediting legitimate Chinese crime-fighting.

The geopolitical backdrop was hardly invisible from the Brooklyn federal courtroom Wednesday.

Noting the recent rise in U.S.-China tensions, defense lawyer Paul Goldberger asked jurors "to take a long, hard look at what the (U.S.) government has done" in the

case against his client, Zheng.

In response, U.S. District Judge Pamela Chen warned that "the U.S. government is not on trial." (She isn't related to the prosecutor.)

Zhu's lawyer, Kevin Tung, said he was "not here to defend the People's Republic of China," but to defend "a person who I believe is innocent."

The ex-official who was allegedly targeted, Xu Jin, came to the U.S. about a decade ago after falling out of favor with the Communist Party, prosecutors said. They said China initially went after him by issuing an international alert that he was wanted and by publicizing the bribery allegations. His family says they are false.

China has no extradition treaty with the U.S., so Beijing can't legally compel suspects to return. Instead, according to U.S. prosecutors, the Chinese govern-

ment worked through intermediaries to try to squeeze Xu into deciding to return.

While only Zhu, Zheng and McMahon are on trial at the moment, eight other people also were indicted in the case. Three have pleaded guilty; five are believed to be in China.

Zhu, a retiree, lives in New York City. In 2016, he helped hire McMahon — a retired New York Police Department sergeant turned private eye — and helped provide him personal information to track down Xu and his family, according to prosecutors. Later, Zhu picked up some Chinese people at Newark Liberty Airport and drove them to a meeting with McMahon.

His lawyer said Zhu thought he was helping a Chinese acquaintance who needed a U.S. resident's help to find a man who owed him \$400,000.

Average long-term U.S. mortgage rate climbs to 6.79 percent

**By ALEX VEIGA
AP Business Writer**
LOS ANGELES (AP) — The average long-term U.S. mortgage rate climbed this week to its highest level since November, driving up borrowing costs for would-be homebuyers at a time when the housing market is being held back by a near record-low inventory of homes on the market.

Mortgage buyer Freddie Mac said Thursday that the average rate on the benchmark 30-year home loan rose to 6.79 percent from 6.57 percent last week. A year ago, the rate averaged 5.09 percent.

The latest increase marks the third in three weeks and lifts the average rate on a 30-year home loan to its highest level since it surged to 7.08 percent in early November.

The average rate on 15-year fixed-rate mortgages, popular with those refinancing their homes, rose to 6.18 percent this week from 5.97 percent last week. A year ago, it averaged 4.32 percent, Freddie Mac said.

High rates can add hundreds of dollars a month in costs for homebuyers, limiting how much they can afford in a market that remains unaffordable to many Americans after years of soaring home prices and historically low levels of housing inventory.

Mortgage rates have ticked higher along with the 10-year Treasury yield, which lenders use as a guide to pricing loans. The yield hit 3.81 percent last week, its highest point since early March, reflecting uncertainty among bond investors over whether the federal government would be able to avoid a debt default and renewed worries that the Federal Reserve may not be done hiking interest rates.

"Mortgage rates jumped this week, as a buoyant

economy has prompted the market to price-in the likelihood of another Federal Reserve rate hike," said Sam Khater, Freddie Mac's chief economist. "Although there has been a steady flow of purchase demand around rates in the low- to mid-6 percent range, that demand is likely to weaken as rates approach 7 percent."

The House of Representatives approved a deal on Wednesday to prevent a possible default on the U.S. government's debt. But uncertainty over what the Fed will do at its upcoming interest rate policy meeting this month, and beyond, could keep the bond market on edge, driving more mortgage rate volatility.

Investors' expectations for future inflation, global demand for U.S. Treasuries and what the Fed does with interest rates influence rates on home loans.

The Fed has raised its benchmark interest rate 10 times in 14 months in a bid to lower stubbornly high inflation. Fed Chair Jerome Powell and other central bank officials have recently signaled that the Fed may forego another interest rate hike at this month's meeting of policymakers. Such a move would give the Fed time to evaluate the economic impact of its previous rate increases.

Still, a pause now doesn't mean the Fed couldn't resume hiking later this year. And other Fed officials continue to express support for more hikes, given inflation remains elevated. The consumer price index, which tracks inflation at the consumer level, rose 4.9 percent in April from 12 months earlier.

The U.S. housing market has been slow to regain its footing this year, with elevated mortgage rates and a thin inventory of homes on the market working to limit sales.

Enter Our

Draw YOUR DAD

Contest



We're inviting all children ages 4 - 11 to enter our

"Draw Your Dad" Contest

for Father's Day

We'll publish a selection of entries on Friday, June 16th in the News-Banner. All entries received by Tuesday, June 14th will have an opportunity to win.

 Gift Certificates

PLEASE NOTE - Drawings must be submitted on white paper and drawn with black ink. Entry art size should measure 2 3/4" wide by 3 1/2 " tall. Submit entry with this form by JUNE 13th.

Print Child's Name

Age

Father's Name

Address

Phone

DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES IS TUES., JUNE 13th

Drop off entries to News-Banner Office or Mail to

Draw Your Dad

c/o News-Banner

P.O. Box #436

Bluffton, IN 46714

 i'm lovin' it